

satellite based telephones have been planned to be inducted in rural telephone network to improve telephone services in the rural areas.

Tapping of Telephones

3137. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government are aware of the tapping of telephones in some States and particularly in Orissa;
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the action taken against the persons involved in telephone tapping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Monitoring of telephones is authorised under the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951 which prescribe stringent procedure to be followed in such cases. Authorisation orders for interception of telephones are issued by the State Home Secretaries in respect of State Government and Union Home Secretary in respect of the Central Government. Information regarding details of telephones monitored by the State Governments is not maintained by the Government of India. Ministry of Communications merely provides technical assistance in respect of orders issued as above. No case of illegal tapping of telephones has been reported.

- (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Telephone facilities in UP

†3138. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large part of the rural area in extensive State like Uttar Pradesh is still devoid of telephone facility;
- (b) if so, the scheme of Government to connect all villages with telephone facility and by when it will be completed; and
- (c) whether increase has been recorded at present in the 2102 number of rural telephone exchanges in the Eastern and Western

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

telephone divisions of the State and the number of exchanges connected with OFC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 71,065 villages out of 115,249 villages in Uttar Pradesh State have been provided with telecom facility till 31.07.2000. Only 44,184 villages are devoid of telephone facility;

(b) All the villages in the country, including those in Uttar Pradesh are planned to be provided with telecom facility by March, 2002 progressively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Provision of internet facility in the villages

3139. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a programme to provide internet facilities to all the villages in the country;

(b) if so, how many villages are connected so far; and

(c) by when the whole country will be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is no such proposal at present for the villages. However, there is a proposal to provide Internet facility in all the block headquarters within this financial year.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Computerisation of post offices

3140. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up the fully computerised post offices in the States capital headquarters and the district headquarters;

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